USDA Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

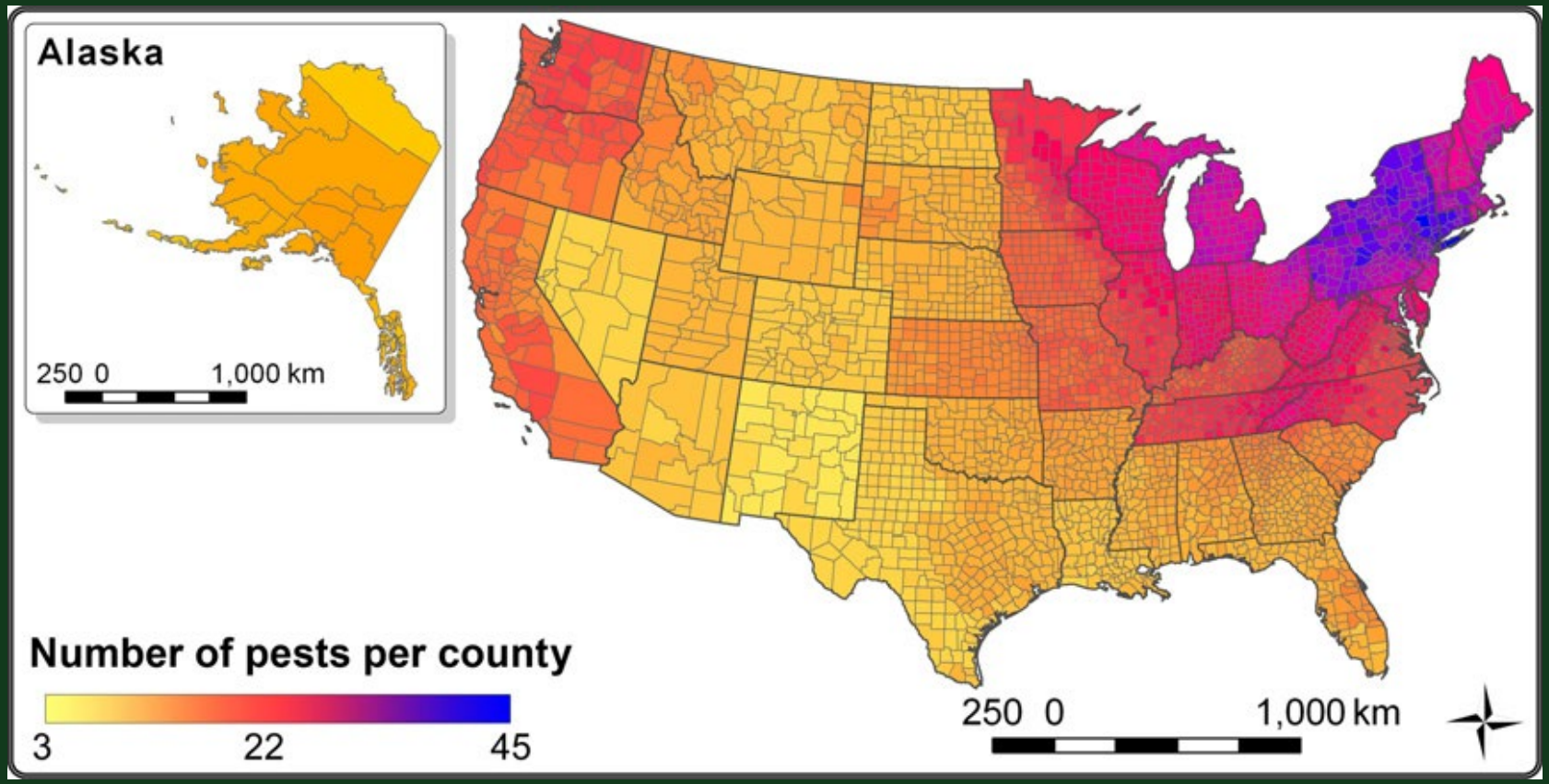
NORTHEAST-MIDWEST STATE FORESTERS ALLIANCE

Bipartisan infrastructure law (BIL) invasive species funding opportunities for non-federal lands in the eastern region

Eastern Region, State and Private Forestry,
Forest Health Protection

Northeast-Midwest State Foresters Alliance,
Forest Health Committee

A pummeling succession of invasions

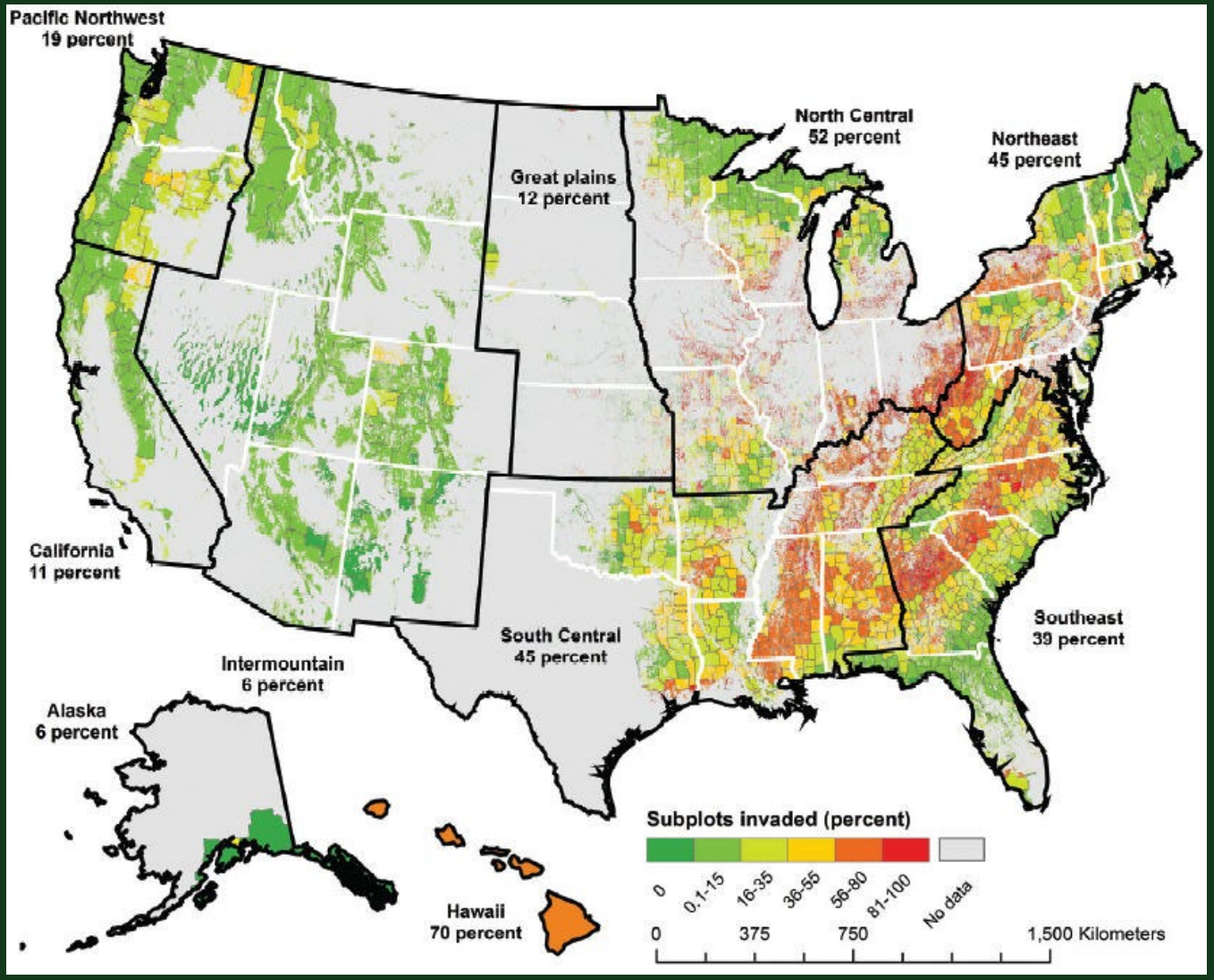


Liebhold et al. 2013. Diversity and Distributions 19, 1208–1216

Non-native forest insect and pathogens abundant in the East

A pummeling succession of invasions

Oswalt et al. 2015. NeoBiota 24: 49–54



Chestnut blight

Dutch elm disease

Butternut canker

Beech bark disease

Hemlock woolly adelgid

Emerald ash borer

Troy Kimoto, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Bugwood.org

Webinar Agenda

- Introduction
- Objective of meeting
- Overview of BIL invasive species programs
  1. State capacity program
  2. High-Priority Regional Invasive Species Projects program
- Questions

BIL (Aka IIJA)

- The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), H.R. 3684 (Public Law No: 117-58), was signed into law by President Biden on 15 November 2021.
  - $ 1.2 trillion bill
  - Funding over five fiscal years (FY), FY22-FY26.

- Forest Service will invest $5.5 billion with Federal, Tribal, State, and local government partners to increase the scale of:
  - Wildland fire risk reduction
  - Ecosystem restoration
  - Investment in natural resources-related infrastructure

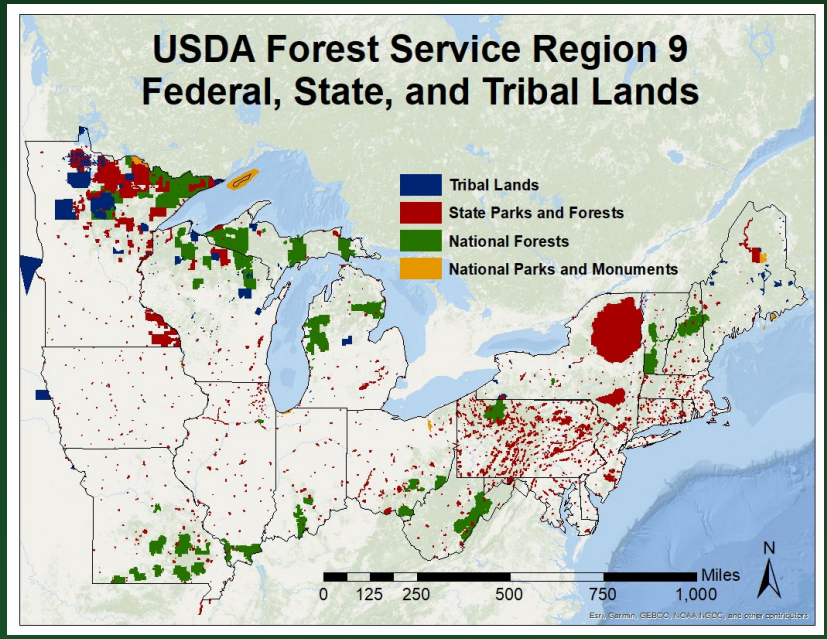
BIL invasive species provision

Sec. 40804. ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

40804(b)(6): $200,000,000 shall be made available for **invasive species detection, prevention, and eradication**, including conducting research and providing resources to facilitate detection of invasive species at **points of entry** and awarding grants for eradication of invasive species on non-Federal land and on Federal land, of which—(A) $100,000,000 shall be made available to the Secretary of the Interior; and (B) **$100,000,000 shall be made available to the Secretary of Agriculture**.

Cross-deputy area coordination

- BIL includes complementary invasive species programs for Federal lands and USFS Research
- R9 National Forests, Northern Research Station, America the Beautiful Challenge Initiative (NFWF), Department of Interior (Tribes, NPS, DOD)
- Efforts are underway to develop a cross-deputy area, all lands implementation strategy for the BIL Invasive Species program in the eastern region footprint



BIL invasive species (non-federal lands)

- The focus of this webinar is on the non-federal lands share of the funding for the eastern region
- Objective: information sharing, gather input, and questions
- Proactively address invasive species, which continue to have major impacts on forest health and biodiversity in the East
- We hope that this is an exciting opportunity for your organization!

North Central Forest Pest Workshop 2015, Menominee Indian Reservation

Timeline (non-federal lands)

- **15 Nov 2021**: BIL signed into law
- **Winter 2021/2022**: FHP-WO and NASF-FS&HC developed investment and allocation approach for non-federal lands. ~$2.3 million for R9 annually
  - ➢25 % for State capacity program ($ 595,000)
  - ➢75 % for High-priority regional projects ($ 1,750,000)
- **Summer/fall 2022**: R9 FHP-RO, FO-GLs, and NMSFA-FHC developed application instructions and process
- **24 Oct 2022**: Two opportunities opened on Grants.gov
- **7 Nov 2022**: Introductory webinar
- **TBD**: Sub-regional workshops (DFO, SPFO, MFO)
- **16 Dec 2022**: Deadline for State Capacity program
- **3 Feb 2023**: Deadline for High-Priority Regional Projects

Requirements for both programs

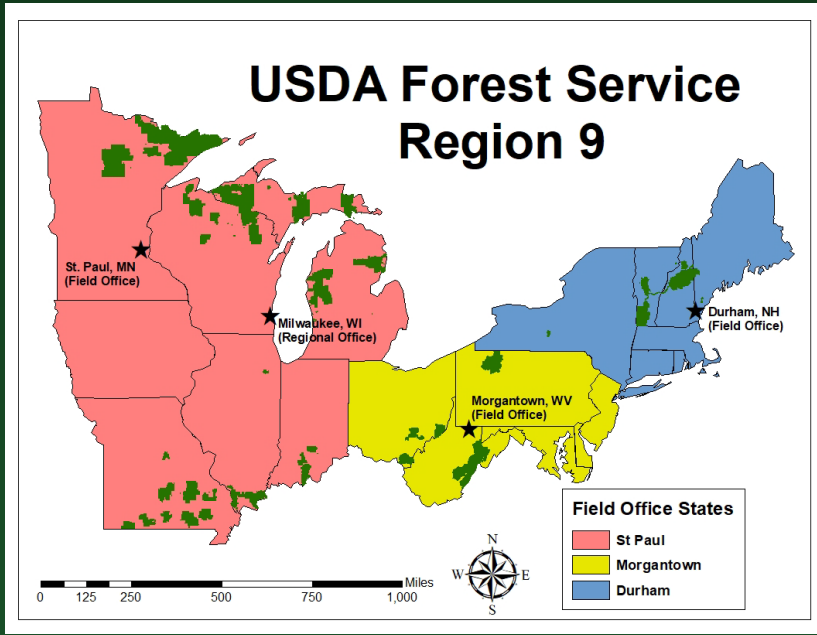
- Follow authorities of Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978, Public Law 95-313 as amended, 16 U.S.C. 2104
  - No basic research, nuisance pest control, routine pesticide applications, etc.
- 1:1 match applies for projects on non-federal lands. Match waivers or reductions possible.
- BIL grants must be tracked and reported on separately, so BIL funds cannot be combined with grants using regular Forest Service appropriated funds.
- BIL grants to States should not be redirected (sometimes called "Pass through Grants") to third parties. States may subgrant BIL funds to third parties.
- BIL grants will have a 5-year time frame. Grants cannot be extended beyond five years.
- BIL grants require quarterly financial and progress reports.

1). State Capacity Program

- Build and maintain capacity around invasive species work
- Detection surveys, monitoring, evaluation, prevention, and suppression of insect, disease, worms, and invasive plants
- Staffing, equipment, pesticides, traps, pheromones, …
- $28,333/state annually (may vary in FY2024 - 2026)
- FY2022 and 2023 funds merged, $56,666/state available now

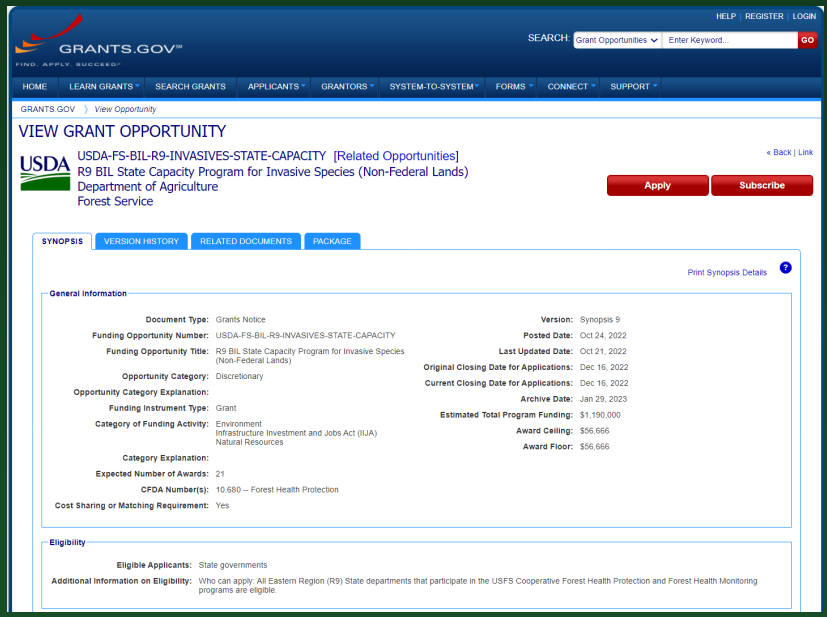
Eligibility

- All State departments and DC that participate in the Cooperative Forest Health Protection and Forest Health Monitoring programs
- No proposal evaluation criteria (supports capacity needs)



Application process and forms

- Grants.gov opportunity number USDA-FS-BIL-R9-INVASIVES-STATE-CAPACITY
- Three forms to submit
  1. SF-424 App. for Fed. Assistance
  2. SF-424a Budget information
  3. Budget breakdown form
- Optional forms
  1. Match waiver request



SF-424
(3 pages)

OMB Number: 4040-0004
Expiration Date: 12/31/2022

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

* 1. Type of Submission:	* 2. Type of Application:	* If Revision, select appropriate letter(s):
☐ Preapplication	☐ New	
☐ Application	☐ Continuation	* Other (Specify):
☐ Changed/Corrected Application	☐ Revision	

* 3. Date Received:	4. Applicant Identifier:
Completed by Grants.gov upon submission.	

5a. Federal Entity Identifier:	5b. Federal Award Identifier:

State Use Only:

6. Date Received by State:	7. State Application Identifier:

8. APPLICANT INFORMATION:

* a. Legal Name:	
* b. Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN):	* c. UEI:

d. Address:

* Street1:	
Street2:	
* City:	
County/Parish:	
* State:	
Province:	
* Country:	USA: UNITED STATES
* Zip / Postal Code:	

e. Organizational Unit:

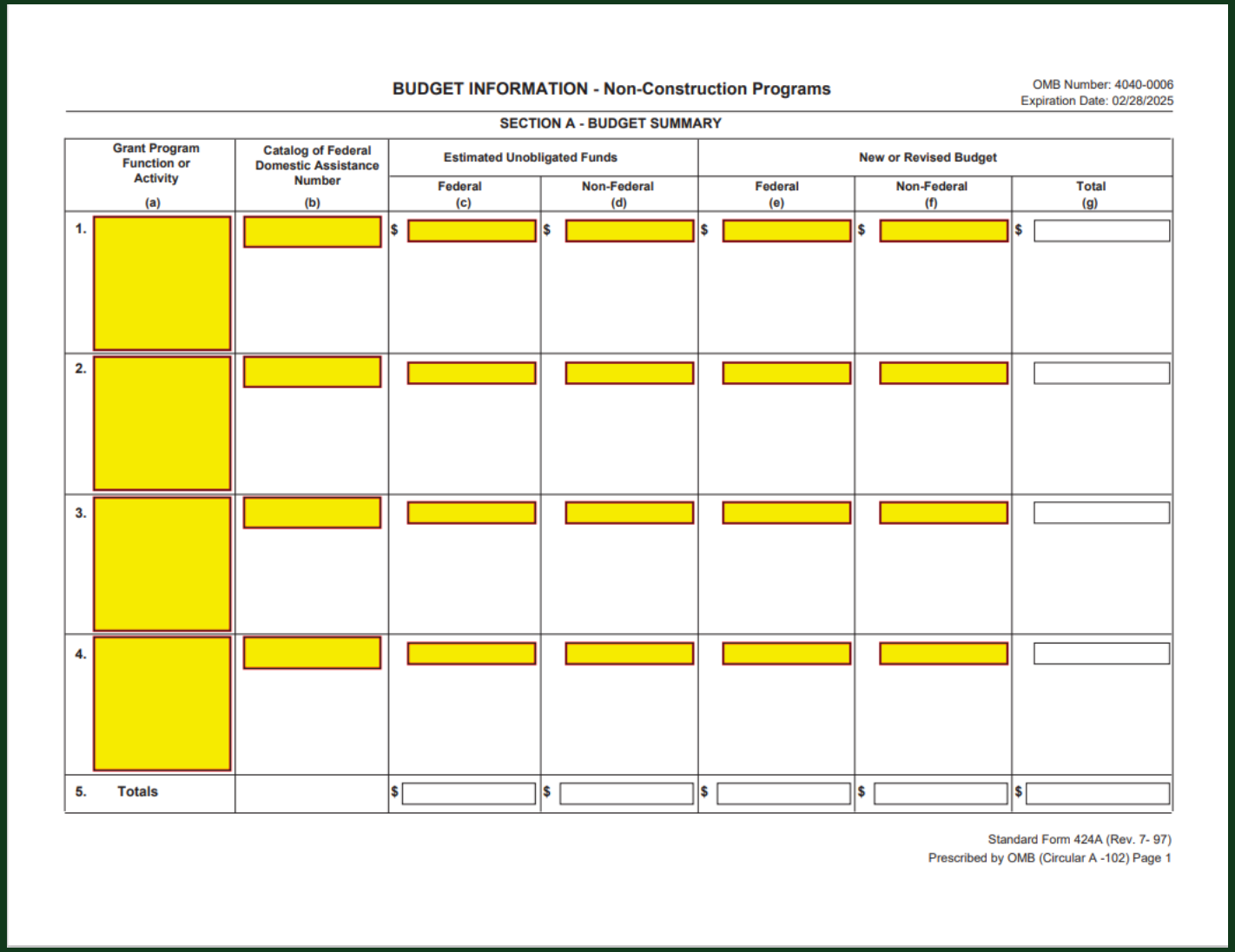
Department Name:	Division Name:

f. Name and contact information of person to be contacted on matters involving this application:

Prefix:		* First Name:	
Middle Name:			
* Last Name:			
Suffix:			

Title:	
Organizational Affiliation:	
* Telephone Number:	Fax Number:
* Email:	

SF-424A (3 pages)



BUDGET INFORMATION - Non-Construction Programs

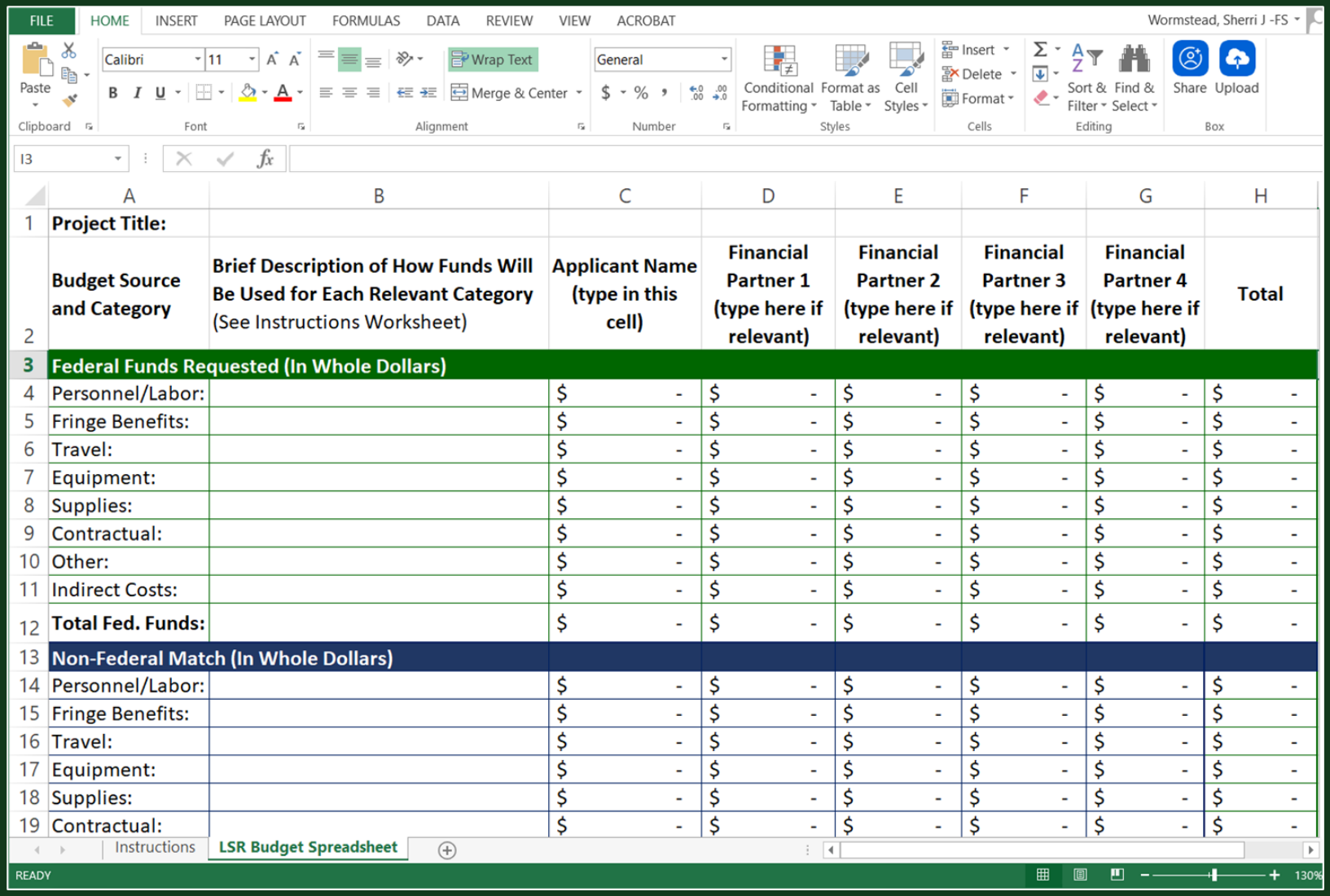
OMB Number: 4040-0006
Expiration Date: 02/28/2025

SECTION A - BUDGET SUMMARY

Grant Program Function or Activity (a)	Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number (b)	Estimated Unobligated Funds		New or Revised Budget		
		Federal (c)	Non-Federal (d)	Federal (e)	Non-Federal (f)	Total (g)
1.		$	$	$	$	$
2.						
3.						
4.						
5. Totals		$	$	$	$	$

Standard Form 424A (Rev. 7- 97)
Prescribed by OMB (Circular A -102) Page 1

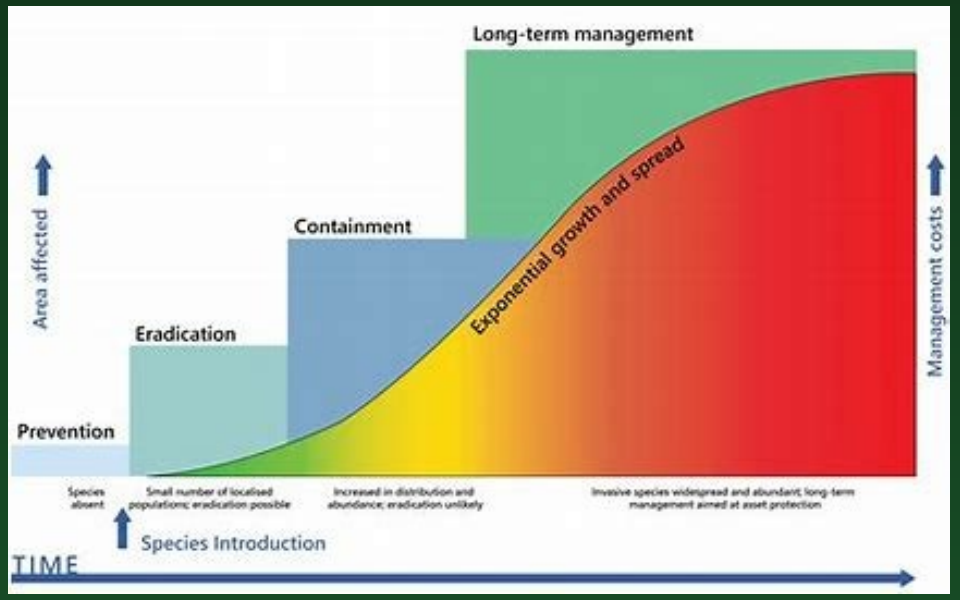
Budget spreadsheet



	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	**Project Title:**							
2	**Budget Source and Category**	**Brief Description of How Funds Will Be Used for Each Relevant Category** (See Instructions Worksheet)	**Applicant Name (type in this cell)**	**Financial Partner 1 (type here if relevant)**	**Financial Partner 2 (type here if relevant)**	**Financial Partner 3 (type here if relevant)**	**Financial Partner 4 (type here if relevant)**	**Total**
3	**Federal Funds Requested (In Whole Dollars)**							
4	Personnel/Labor:		$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
5	Fringe Benefits:		$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
6	Travel:		$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
7	Equipment:		$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
8	Supplies:		$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
9	Contractual:		$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
10	Other:		$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
11	Indirect Costs:		$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
12	**Total Fed. Funds:**		$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
13	**Non-Federal Match (In Whole Dollars)**							
14	Personnel/Labor:		$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
15	Fringe Benefits:		$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
16	Travel:		$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
17	Equipment:		$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
18	Supplies:		$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
19	Contractual:		$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -

2). High-Priority Regional Projects Program

- Sustain the health of forest ecosystems or tree species with high ecological value by taking <u>stronger action in the early phases of the invasion curve</u>
- Early detection of introductions, rapid response and eradication, prevention of introductions or spread, prevention of damage of invasive forest insects, worms, pathogens, and plants.
- $1,785,000 annually (may vary in FY2024 - 2026).
- FY2022 and 2023 funds merged, $3,570,000 available now



"More federal agency resources are being devoted to the control of already established invasive species instead of reducing the risk of future invasion." (Reaser et. al. 2020)

Eligibility and other requirements

- All Eastern Region State forestry departments or equivalent State agencies that have a responsibility for forest health are eligible.
- Universities and nonprofit organizations are eligible, but the application must also include a letter of support from the State Forester(s) or appropriate State forest health lead.
- Award minimum: $30,000
- Award maximum: None
- Collaborate with FHP FO staff during project planning
- Optional: Webinars and sub-regional workshops

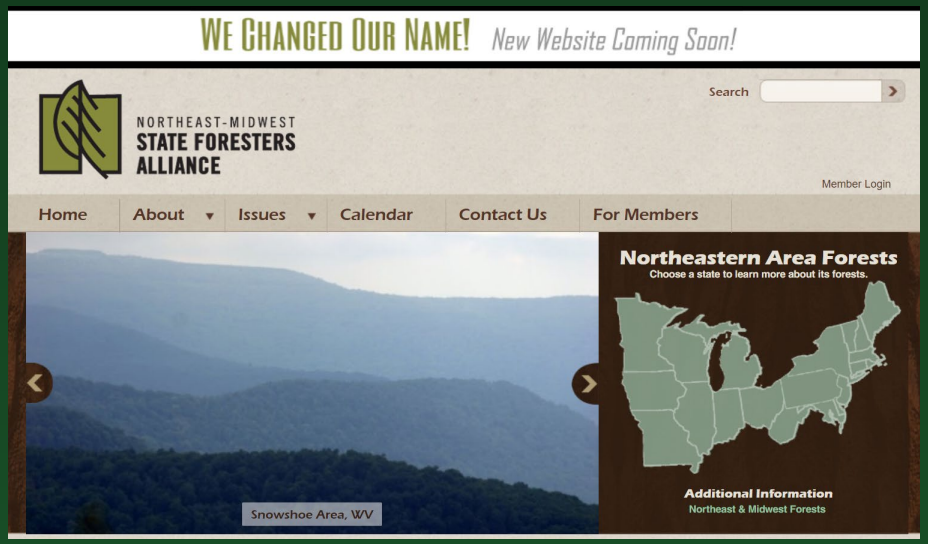
Evaluation criteria

- Funding will be awarded to projects based on alignment with the priorities:
  1. Early detection of introductions or spread
  2. Rapid response and eradication of introduced species
  3. Prevention of introductions or spread or damage

- Additional evaluation criteria:
  - Sustain the health of priority forest ecosystems or tree species with high ecological value
  - Collaboration
  - Impact
  - Probability of success
  - Inclusion of underserved communities

Application review

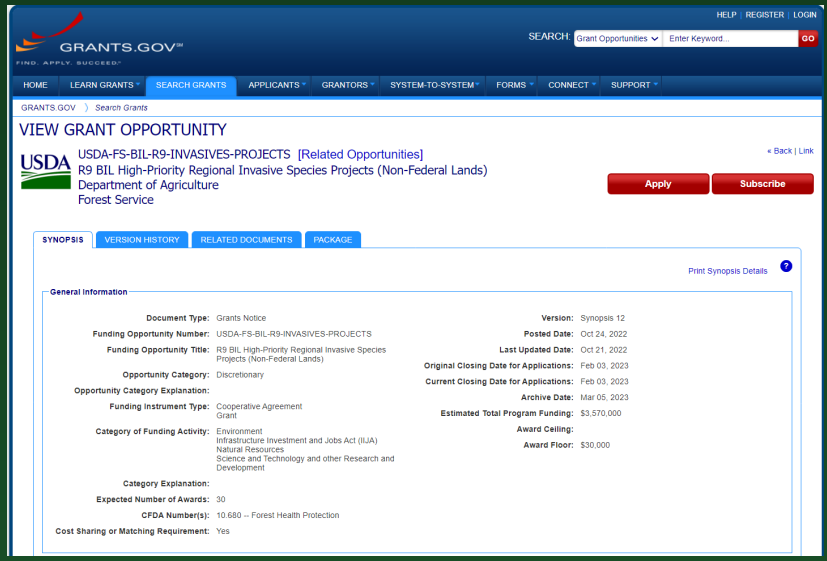
- Projects reviewed by inter-agency team and selected by R9 Regional Forester
  - NMSFA FHC (leadership team and State Forester Advisor)
  - Eastern Region FHP (Director, regional entomologist, pathologist, and invasive plant specialist)
  - Northern Research Station scientist
  - Eastern Region National Forest System representative
  - In addition, staff from APHIS, Tribes, and other partner entities may be asked to review selected projects for strategic alignment with existing and new programs



https://www.nmsfa.org/

Application process and forms

- Grants.gov opportunity number USDA-FS-BIL-R9-INVASIVES-PROJECTS
- Three or more forms to submit
  1. SF-424 App. for Fed. Assistance
  2. Budget breakdown form
  3. Project narrative form
  - Letter of support (Univ., colleges, and non-profits)
  - Upon selection, additional forms may be needed depending on your agency
- Optional forms
  - Match waiver request



Project narrative fillable PDF (page 1 of 3)

USDA Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Eastern Region State and Private Forestry
Fiscal Year 2022 and 2023 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)
High-Priority Regional Invasive Species Projects Request for Applications
Project Narrative Form for Non-Federal Lands

Project title: Use this full title consistently on all submission communications and documents

Project contact: Lead for implementing the project, if funded.

Name:
Email:
Phone:

Applicant(s): List agencies or organizations who will receive the funding.

Select one option below for how the Federal funding would be granted:

- ◯ All Federal funds will go directly to the lead agency or organization (applicant listed above). The lead may pass funds to other agencies or organizations to implement components of the project. This is preferred.
- ◯ Federal funds will go directly to multiple agencies and/or organizations, as indicated in the budget spreadsheet and outlined in the project components.

Letter of support included in application[1]: ◯ Yes ◯ No

USDA Forest Service, Eastern Region, FHP staff consulted during proposal development: See instructions for contacts.

Regional priorities addressed (select one or more):

- ☐ Detection
- ☐ Eradication
- ☐ Prevention

Amount of Federal funding requested:

[1] Include a letter of support from State Forester(s) or appropriate State agency lead if applicant is not from a State agency with forest health responsibilities

Project narrative fillable PDF (page 2 of 3)

How the project addresses the BIL funding request components

1. **Background**: How does the project address the BIL priorities? What is the issue? How does the project sustain the health of forest ecosystems or tree species with high ecological value?

2. **Collaboration**: Explain if the work is to be done with or through others, any leverage or additional partner funding, and if it crosses ownership boundaries or States.

3. **Impact**: What is the potential ecological or economic impact to forest ecosystems or tree species if the invasive species is/are not addressed, and why does it matter?

Project narrative fillable PDF (page 3 of 3)

4. **Probability of success**: What action is proposed and what measurable outcomes are expected? What is the probability of success?

5. **Scale of project**: Describe regional or sub-regional scale of project and geographic area. If the project is small in scale, explain why (i.e., an eradication project):

6. **Budget comments (optional)**: Complete and submit the budget spreadsheet provided at Grants.gov (See instructions). Include any additional comments about the budget in this section, as needed.

Sub-regional workshops

- Organized and hosted by each field office: Durham, Morgantown, and St. Paul
  - Purpose:
    - Brainstorm ideas and build teams to develop high-priority regional project applications (could be larger than one field office service area)
    - Understand State priorities and align project ideas with the BIL funding priorities
  - When: Dates TBD, before the holidays ideally
  - Where: In-person or Virtual
  - Audience: State forest health programs, Universities, colleges, non-profit organizations as determined.

Examples of projects

1. **Detection:**
   - New or expanded surveillance programs (i.e., pathogens, inv. plants, other insect guilds)
   - Regional arboreta/park/forest surveillance near points of entry (i.e., rearing tubes with declining tree material)
   - More citizen science/arborist/firewood producer training
2. **Eradication:**
   - Regional visual and eDNA surveys for ALB outside of current quarantine zones in high-probability areas to assist APHIS in eradication
3. **Prevention:**
   - Harmonized inv. plant regulations among States, equip. washing to prevent the spread of inv. plants

Getting ready to apply

Before working in Grants.gov your organization will need:

- Employer Identification Number (~5 weeks)
- System Award Management (SAM) registration to obtain Unique Entity ID (UEI) (7-10 days)
- Register your organization/agency in Grants.gov with your UEI (same day)

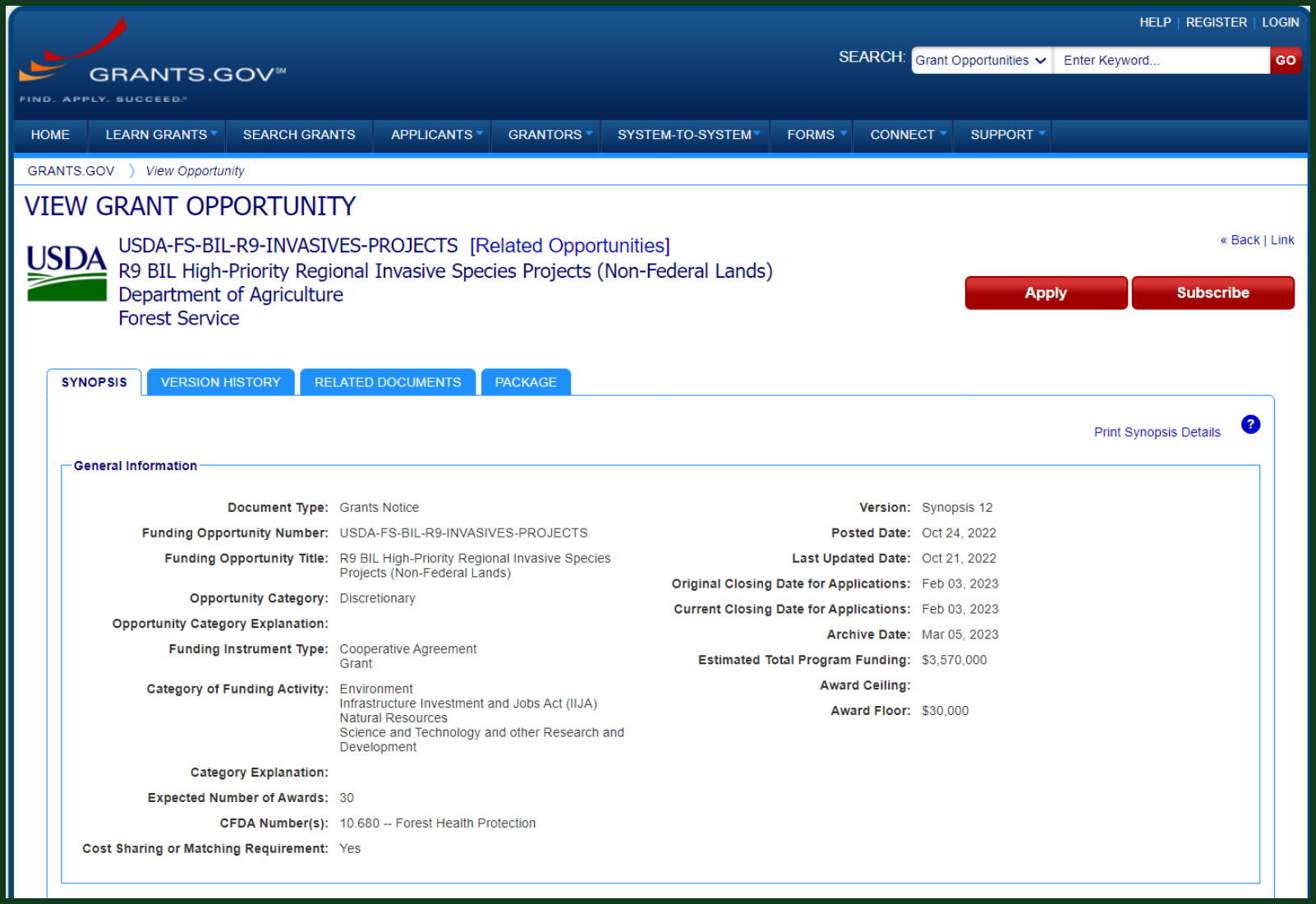
Then individuals who will sign and prepare the application: Register for a Grants.gov account and add a profile for the organization. Make sure the individual who will sign the application has the Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) role (same day)

How to apply, review

All forms available and submitted through Grants.gov

- Search for Opportunity (or CFDA 10.680):
  1. USDA-FS-BIL-R9-INVASIVES-STATE-CAPACITY
  2. USDA-FS-BIL-R9-INVASIVES-PROJECTS
- Grants.gov provides 24/7 support:
  - Toll-free number = 1-800-518-4726
  - Email = support@grants.gov

Grants.gov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R9 BIL High-Priority Regional Invasive Species Projects (Non-Federal Lands)
Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
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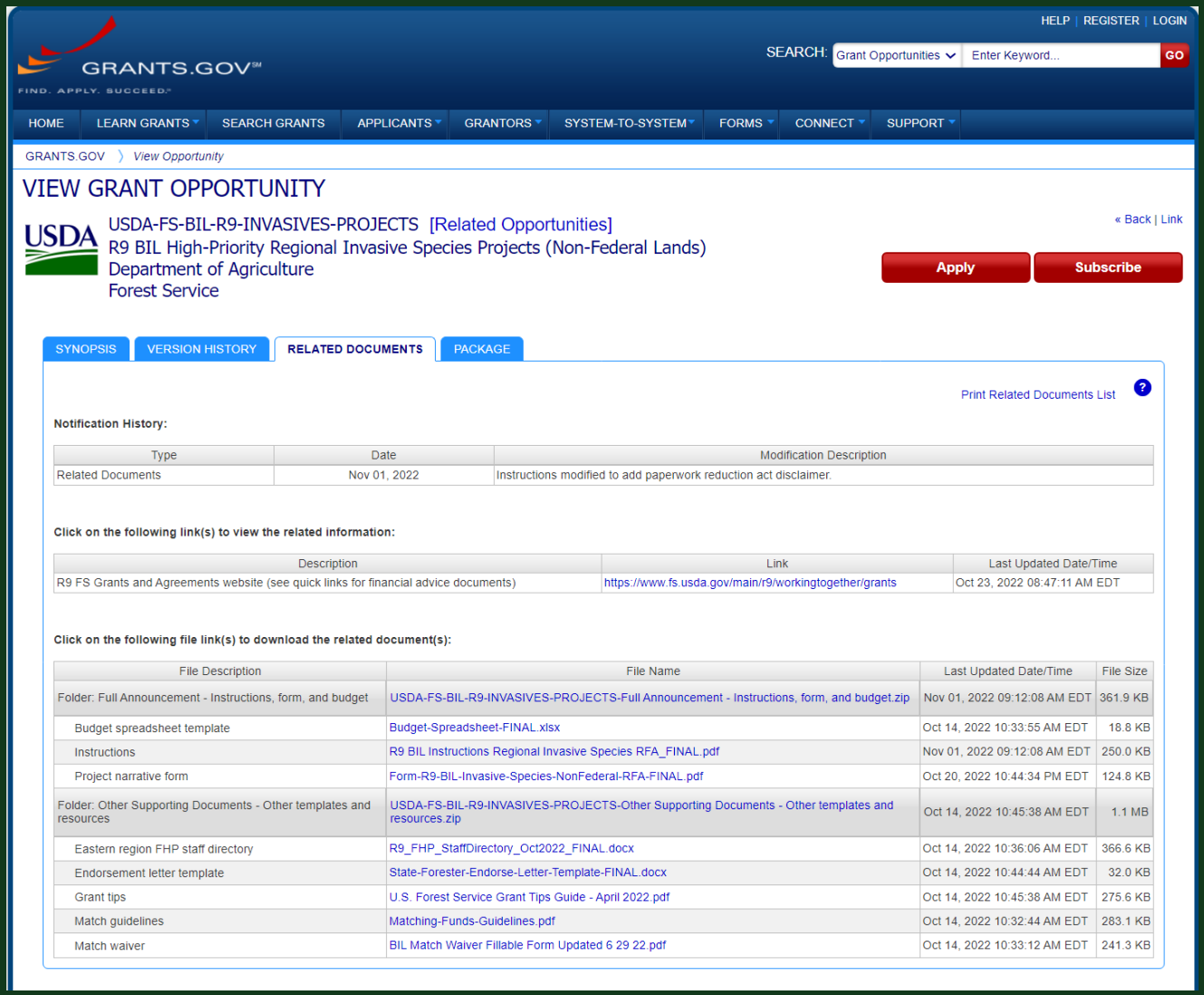
SYNOPSIS
VERSION HISTORY
RELATED DOCUMENTS
PACKAGE
Print Synopsis Details
General Information
Document Type: Grants Notice
Funding Opportunity Number: USDA-FS-BIL-R9-INVASIVES-PROJECTS
Funding Opportunity Title: R9 BIL High-Priority Regional Invasive Species Projects (Non-Federal Lands)
Opportunity Category: Discretionary
Opportunity Category Explanation:
Funding Instrument Type: Cooperative Agreement
Grant
Category of Funding Activity: Environment
Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)
Natural Resources
Science and Technology and other Research and Development
Category Explanation:
Expected Number of Awards: 30
CFDA Number(s): 10.680 -- Forest Health Protection
Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement: Yes
Version: Synopsis 12
Posted Date: Oct 24, 2022
Last Updated Date: Oct 21, 2022
Original Closing Date for Applications: Feb 03, 2023
Current Closing Date for Applications: Feb 03, 2023
Archive Date: Mar 05, 2023
Estimated Total Program Funding: $3,570,000
Award Ceiling:
Award Floor: $30,000

Grants.gov: Related documents



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USDA-FS-BIL-R9-INVASIVES-PROJECTS [Related Opportunities]
R9 BIL High-Priority Regional Invasive Species Projects (Non-Federal Lands)
Department of Agriculture
Forest Service

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SYNOPSIS | VERSION HISTORY | **RELATED DOCUMENTS** | PACKAGE

Print Related Documents List

Notification History:

Type	Date	Modification Description
Related Documents	Nov 01, 2022	Instructions modified to add paperwork reduction act disclaimer.

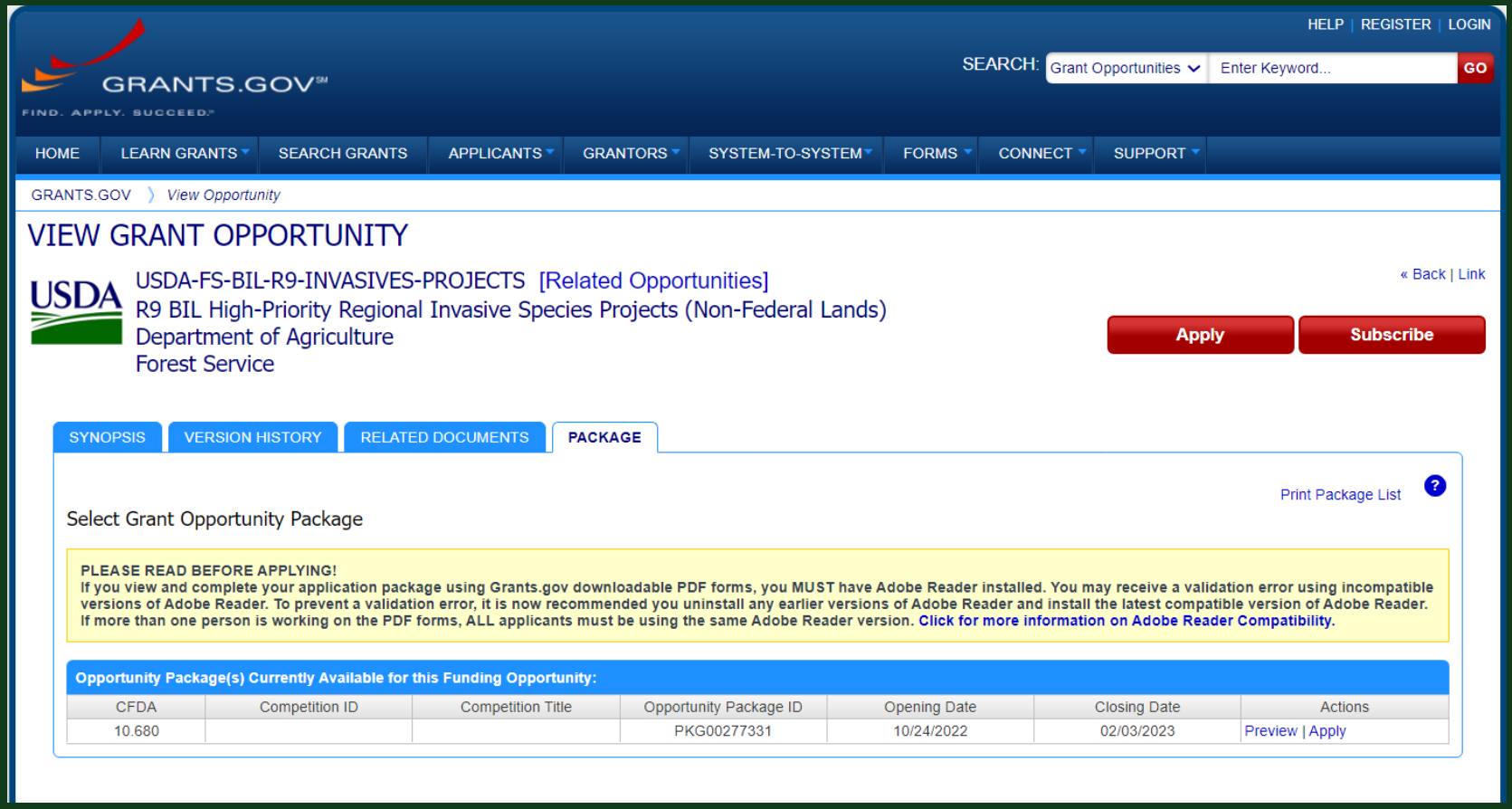
Click on the following link(s) to view the related information:

Description	Link	Last Updated Date/Time
R9 FS Grants and Agreements website (see quick links for financial advice documents)	https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/r9/workingtogether/grants	Oct 23, 2022 08:47:11 AM EDT

Click on the following file link(s) to download the related document(s):

File Description	File Name	Last Updated Date/Time	File Size
Folder: Full Announcement - Instructions, form, and budget	USDA-FS-BIL-R9-INVASIVES-PROJECTS-Full Announcement - Instructions, form, and budget.zip	Nov 01, 2022 09:12:08 AM EDT	361.9 KB
Budget spreadsheet template	Budget-Spreadsheet-FINAL.xlsx	Oct 14, 2022 10:33:55 AM EDT	18.8 KB
Instructions	R9 BIL Instructions Regional Invasive Species RFA_FINAL.pdf	Nov 01, 2022 09:12:08 AM EDT	250.0 KB
Project narrative form	Form-R9-BIL-Invasive-Species-NonFederal-RFA-FINAL.pdf	Oct 20, 2022 10:44:34 PM EDT	124.8 KB
Folder: Other Supporting Documents - Other templates and resources	USDA-FS-BIL-R9-INVASIVES-PROJECTS-Other Supporting Documents - Other templates and resources.zip	Oct 14, 2022 10:45:38 AM EDT	1.1 MB
Eastern region FHP staff directory	R9_FHP_StaffDirectory_Oct2022_FINAL.docx	Oct 14, 2022 10:36:06 AM EDT	366.6 KB
Endorsement letter template	State-Forester-Endorse-Letter-Template-FINAL.docx	Oct 14, 2022 10:44:44 AM EDT	32.0 KB
Grant tips	U.S. Forest Service Grant Tips Guide - April 2022.pdf	Oct 14, 2022 10:45:38 AM EDT	275.6 KB
Match guidelines	Matching-Funds-Guidelines.pdf	Oct 14, 2022 10:32:44 AM EDT	283.1 KB
Match waiver	BIL Match Waiver Fillable Form Updated 6 29 22.pdf	Oct 14, 2022 10:33:12 AM EDT	241.3 KB

Grants.gov: Package



Timeline review

- **24 Oct 2022**: Two opportunities opened on Grants.gov
- **7 Nov 2022**: Introductory webinar
- **Nov-Dec 2022**: Sub-regional workshops, dates TBD
- **16 Dec 2022**: Applications due for State capacity program
- **3 Feb 2023**: Applications due for High-Priority Regional Projects
  - **20-24 February 2023**: Interagency review of applications
  - **20-24 March 2023**: Projects selected and announced by R9 RF
  - **~20 May 2023**: Grants and agreements packages due

Grant implementation and reporting for funded projects

- A Forest Service grant monitor is assigned
- Projects must be completed in 5 years
- Quarterly BIL reporting (brief, template in prep.):
  - July 30 (1 month after end of quarter)
  - October 30
  - January 30
  - April 30
- Annual reporting to R9 G and A (progress, financial):
  - March 31: Grant performance reporting

Contacts for Further Information

- Eastern Region S&PF Forest Health Program Director or Field Office group leader for assistance and additional information:
  - Eastern Region S&PF, Director of Forest Health and Forest Markets: Susan Ellsworth, 414-232-9591, susan.ellsworth@usda.gov
  - New England States and New York (CT, MA, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT): Mike Bohne, 603-868-7708, michael.bohne@usda.gov
  - Mid-Atlantic States (DC, DE, MD, NJ, OH, PA, WV): Rick Turcotte, 304-285-1544, richard.m.turcotte@usda.gov
  - Midwest States (IA, IL, IN, MI, MN, MO, WI): James Jacobs, 651-649-5266, james.j.jacobs@usda.gov